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By: 1 1.

Date: 8/15/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

: Peter Hildebrandt et al.

Applic. No.

: 09/322,715

Filed

: May 28, 1999

Title

: Coupling Device

Examiner

: Sarah Song

Group Art Unit: 2874

AMENDMENT under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the final Office action dated March 20, 2001 kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (twice-amended). Coupling device, comprising:

an optical fiber holder having a top face, a bottom face,

narrow side faces between said top face and said bottom face,

with transition regions formed between said narrow side faces,

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